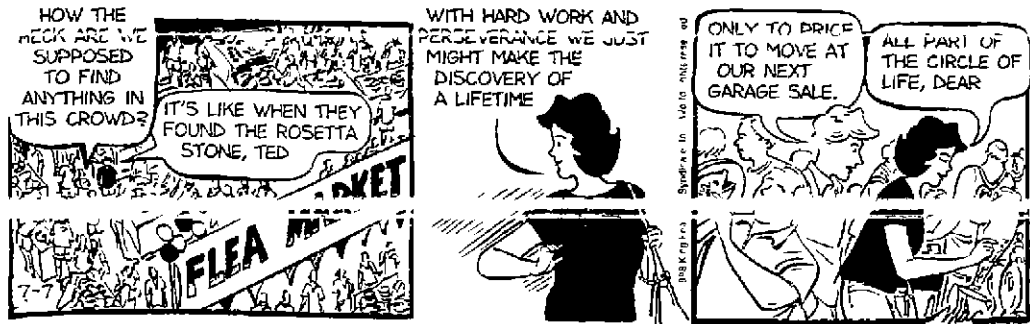


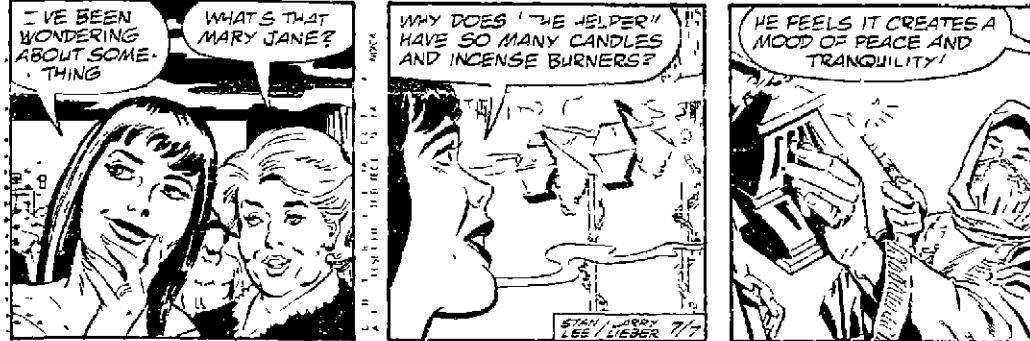
BLONDIE



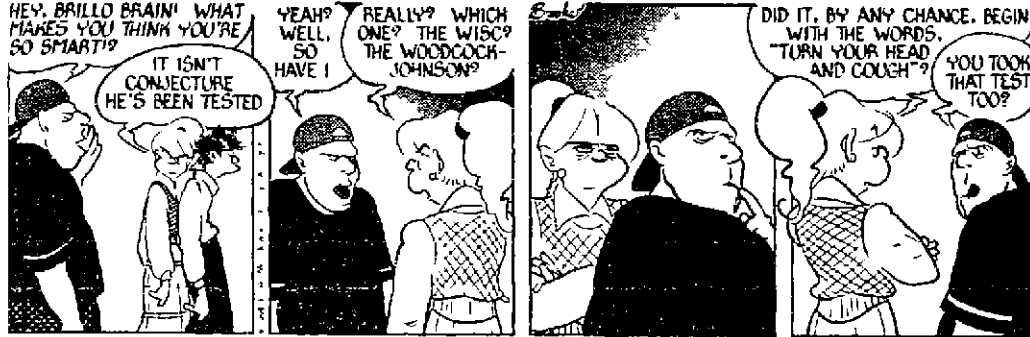
SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



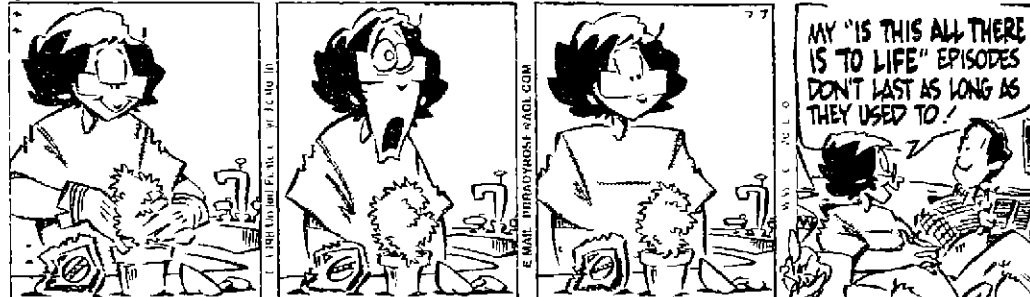
9 CHICKWEED LANE



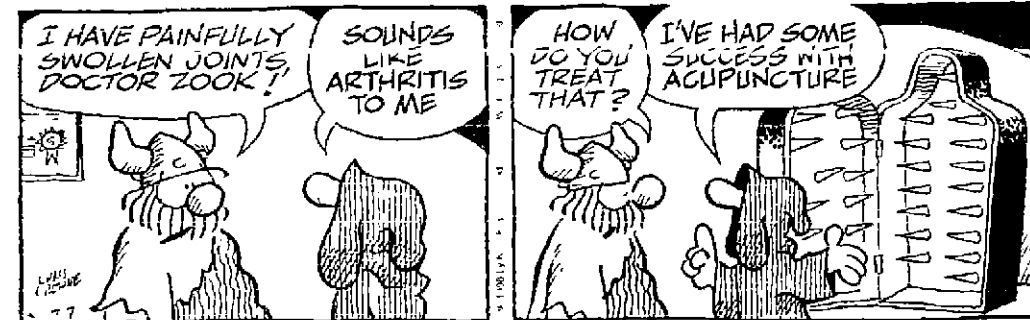
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



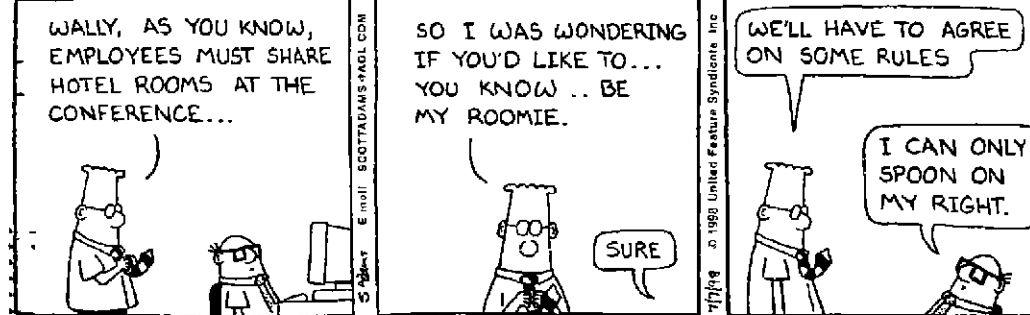
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



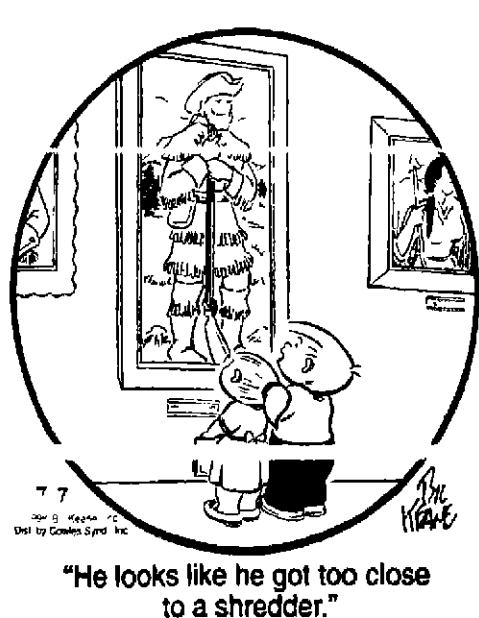
DILBERT



DENNIS THE MENACE



FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



Today's Birthdays

Composer Gian Carlo Menotti is 85. Fashion designer Pierre Cardin is 76. Musician-conductor Doc Severinsen is 71. Rock star Ringo Starr is 58. Singer-musician Warren Zevon (The Grass Roots) is 54. Actor Joe Spano is 52. Actress Shelley Long is 49. Actress Roz Ryan is 47. Rock musician Mark White (Spin Doctors) is 36. Olympic silver medal figure skater Michelle Kwan is 18.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE

PAR SCORE 145-155
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL TIME LIMIT 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7 letter words get 50 point bonus. Stars used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words. Copyright © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

RACK 1: M, T, P, A, E, U, L
RACK 2: T, E, S, I, E, C, L
RACK 3: K, B, E, H, R, C, H
RACK 4: D, E, C, N, L, A, A

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Butter -

DXUONJGDZWTQNKH
DAXURPMJGHDAXVS
ONKIFDAXVTCQOMJ
HFCAY PRODUCTION
WURPNLJEHDFHODB
ZXVTRQOMGKEISCH
FDBHZYWVTNFERIS
QOSNLMKIRLIHWFD
DICPAAZUTLNFXYW
FUSRULHUF AKLIMQ
ONMKJCNAEBFIHFE

Monday's unlisted clue: STOCK
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: THE PEOPLE OF SCOTLAND

Ball	Cups	Fish	Nut
Bean	Dish	Flies	Production
Churn	Fat	Knife	Weed
Clam	Finger	Milk	

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Wednesday, July 8, 1998

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Let your hunger for knowledge take you into strange new realms. New experiences could be what the doctor ordered.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) For once following your impulses is not a great idea. You learn an amazing amount from someone whose past radically differs from your own.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your feelings about a relationship affect the course it takes. Laughter is the common language that proves to be the cure to the day's ills.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You are feeling sluggish and stagnant and will not tolerate fools gladly.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Don't believe everything you read. Go out and try to discover the truth for yourself.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Obligations will not disappear just because you turn a blind eye. Go the extra yard to complete your tasks.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Just because work is making you crazy is no reason to neglect a loved one. Spoil yourself and someone special with a little romance in the evening.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You might think it's all a game, but someone else is playing for keeps. A little caution is well-advised when dealing with strangers.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) People remark on how much you are smiling, and you feel as though you can be in 10 places at once.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) By seeing the best in a bad situation you can set important changes in motion.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) People let you have your way because you're simply too charming to resist.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) The more people who are willing to listen the better, as you are finally ready to share your dream.

ACES ON BRIDGE

By Bobby Wolff

'How did they make the game on Board 22?' asked an unsuccessful South. 'I was able to pick up trumps, but I couldn't handle the 4-1 diamond break.' The answer he got was not one he was happy to hear. At the first table, East won his spade nine, cashed his ace and led another spade for West to ruff. West exited with his club king to South's ace, and South could afford no more losers. He cashed his trump ace, led a low diamond to dummy's jack, and ran dummy's trump 10 for a winning finesse. He picked up trumps, but East's discard on the diamond king derailed him when he tried to run the diamonds. South tried for a minor-suit squeeze, but that didn't work either — down one. How did game make in the replay? South guarded against a singleton diamond with East. After winning his club ace, South also cashed a high trump. However, instead of leading a low diamond to dummy's jack, he led his king to dummy's ace! After drawing trumps, South cashed his diamond queen to expose the position, and the proven finesse against West's diamond 10 gave him his 10 winners. Why did South play as he did? If diamonds were 3-2, it wouldn't matter, but if East had a small singleton, care was required. For South to win the trump finesse and pick up the suit, East had to hold two or three trumps, including the queen. These, together with six spades in the East hand, left little space for four diamonds, leaving only one plausible plan. Guard against diamond length with West.

NORTH
♠ K 8 5
♥ 10 7 3
♦ A J 9 6 5
♣ 10 3

EAST
♠ A Q J 10 9 6
♥ Q 3 2
♦ 4
♣ J 9 8

SOUTH
♠ 7 4 3
♥ A K J 9 8
♦ K Q 3
♣ A 5

Vulnerable East-West
Dealer East

The bidding
East 2♠ South Pass West 3♥ North 4♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Spade deuce

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

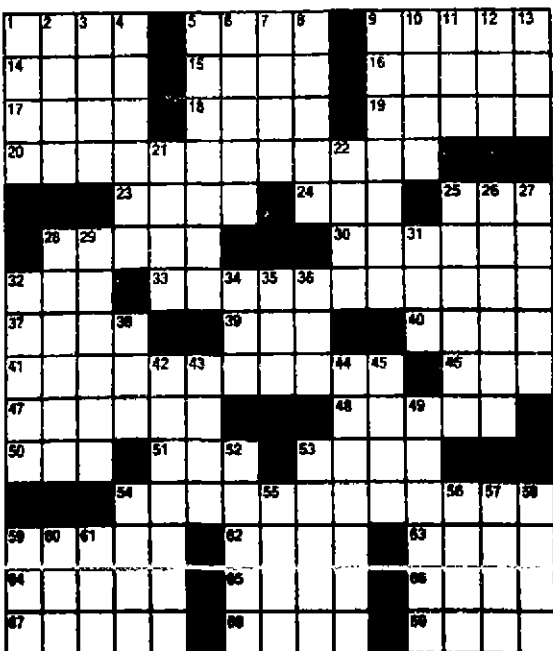
No. 0526

- ACROSS**
- Moby-Dick chaser
 - Hobbe
 - Alternative if things don't work out
 - Vincent Lopez's theme song
 - Met highlight
 - Refuges
 - TV tuner
 - Bridge, in Bretagne
 - Vowel sound
 - Modern times, to Auden
 - Pans airport
 - Stop — dime
 - Nudge, as the memory
 - Copperhead's weapon
 - Snub, in a way
 - One of the Mrs. Sinatras
 - The 1890's, historically
 - Performing —
 - Acquire
 - 40 Individuals
 - Sherlockian times
 - Scottish refusal
 - Chameleonlike creature
 - Confere
 - Acquire, slangily
 - Explosive letters
 - Flabbergast
 - The 1980's, to yuppies
 - "East of Eden" director
 - Part of N B
 - Christiania, now
 - Brewer Samuel
 - Kind of proportions
 - mutton
 - Sioux dwelling
 - Smaller cousin of 67-Across
 - Expensive
- DOWN**
- "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" singer
 - Kong
 - Tissue softener
 - Coarse dimwit
 - One of the Canary Islands
 - Often-missed humor
 - Impudent girl
 - Lanai
 - Stamps
 - Gossamer
 - Cigar leaving
 - Novel
 - Jamboree grp.
 - "Pennies — Heaven"
 - Home of Philips University
 - Actress Barnes or Kerns
 - Severe test
 - Skew formers
 - Ill-tempered woman
 - Devours
 - Cpt., e.g.

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

PITH MORAL IPSO
SOHO CRATE FUNK
SWINGING ON ASTAR
TASKS AGLON OPA
VEA MEL EON
FEED BEDS STARY
ALA EENY KOISHER

WIER NEU OUE CUP
INSIST CODE PUP
NIKON COBS APSE
INA AMA PLY
ASS REMIT REFER
ITS ALL IN THE GAME
NOEL ANGLE ACME
TASS NOISE REAL



- 32** Like Mann's mountain
- 34** "That's awful!"
- 36** Dog doc
- 38** Summer on the Riviera
- 39** 70's terrorist org
- 40** Broadway musical with the song "We Need a Little Christmas"
- 41** "Huh-uh"
- 42** "Things are"
- 43** The Daltons, for example
- 44** Take back
- 45** Greenish-blue
- 46** Countless
- 47** Ism
- 48** Take effect
- 49** Masha and Irma's sister, in Chekhov
- 50** Queen of Jordan
- 51** Crazy
- 52** Fruffy quaff
- 53** Last sound

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone: 1-800-420-5656 (75¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years: 1-888-7-CROSS